

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10
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NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7978
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EMIN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD: CONCLUSION OF RESUMED SESSION OF 17TH
TDB

REFERENCE: STATE 84781, GENEVA 4919

1. SUMMARY: THE RESUMED 17TH TDB SESSION CONCLUDED WITH A
COMPROMISE DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF TUNGSTEN WHICH WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY MANY RESERVATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE
US. IN ADDITION, THE TDB APPROVED THE REPORT OF THE WORKING
PARTY ON THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN, POSTPONED THE NEXT MEETING OF
THE COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES UNTIL NOVEMBER 1978, AND
APPROVED OTHER CALENDAR CHANGES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MAJOR ISSUE BEFORE THE RESUMED 17TH TDB WAS THE
TUNGSTEN ISSUE, AS EXPECTED. THE TDB WRESTLED WITH THIS
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ISSUE MOST OF THE DAY WITH MOST GOVERNMENTS AND THE PRESI-
DENT OF THE TDB SEEKING A WAY OUT TO AVOID VOTING ON THE
PROPOSALS, AND PARTICULARLY ON THE AUSTRALIAN/BOLIVIAN
PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE FOR A STABILI-
ZATION AGREEMENT. THE US HAD DIFFICULTY HOLDING THE OTHER
FOUR CONSUMERS ON A LINE MOSTLY BECAUSE OF UK (BARRASS)
EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION INVOLVING ABSTAINING FROM VOTING

ON THE BASIS THAT VOTING WAS INAPPROPRIATE ON SUCH ISSUES. THE UK UNWILLINGNESS TO BE MORE SPECIFIC IN OPPOSING A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE EITHER IN VOTING OR IN STATING THAT IT WOULD NOT ATTEND CAUSED THE FRG AND JAPAN TO WEAKEN THEIR STANCE. BY THE END OF THE DAY THE PRESIDENT CALLED FOR A MEETING OF THREE PRODUCERS, THREE CONSUMERS AND CANADA TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR COMPROMISE. AUSTRALIA TABLED A TEXT CALLING FOR A PREPARATORY MEETING AND CONVENING OF A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE AFTER THE PREPARATORY MEETING IF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BY THE PARTICIPANTS. THE CONSUMERS INSISTED THAT ANY COMPROMISE WOULD HAVE TO COVER THEIR PROPOSAL AND THE USDEL ALSO MADE CLEAR THE US POSITION WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN/BOLIVIAN AND CANADIAN PROPOSALS AS PER INSTRUCTIONS. THE FINAL TEXT OF THE COMPROMISE TEXT AGREED UPON WAS:

BEGIN TEXT. THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD DECIDES IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN TO REQUEST THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD TO CONVENE A PREPARATORY WORKING GROUP TO FURTHER EXAMINE AND ASSESS PROPOSALS FOR THE STABILIZATION OF THE WORLD TUNGSTEN MARKET.

TOWARDS THIS END THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD TO CONVENE A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE OR TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR THE ESTABLISH-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT OF ANY APPROPRIATE FORUM ON TUNGSTEN, PROVIDED THAT UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE PREPARATORY WORK, IF POSSIBLE, BY THE END OF 1978, PRODUCER AND CONSUMER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AGREE THAT AN ADEQUATE BASIS EXISTS FOR SUCH ACTION AND THAT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED. END TEXT.

3. THE AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN DELEGATES WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SELLING THIS TEXT TO OTHER PRODUCERS ON THE BASIS THAT THE TDB WAS IN NO MOOD TO VOTE AND ONLY OTHER OPTION MIGHT BE TO POSTPONE THE DECISION TO THE AUGUST TDB. (WE HAD INDICATIONS DURING THE DAY THAT SOME OF THE LDC PRODUCERS WERE OPPOSING A VOTING SOLUTION).

4. AT THE TIME OF THE APPROVAL OF THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION IN PLENARY, THE US ENTERED A RESERVATION FOR THE RECORD AS PER PARAS A TO D OF REFTTEL (A) AND THE PRODUCERS ALSO MADE STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY HAD RESERVATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THAT PART OF THE DECISION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE "ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY APPROPRIATE FORUM." WHILE THE OTHER CONSUMERS WOULD NOT JOIN IN THE US RESERVATION, THE FRG

INDICATED PRIVATELY THAT IT WOULD ALSO INDICATE ITS OPPOSITION TO THE PRODUCER PROPOSAL AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP. THE TENTATIVE DATES FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF WORKING GROUP ARE JUNE 5 - 9 WITH A POSSIBLE SECOND MEETING INDICATED. NO TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE SPECIFIED BEYOND THE ABOVE DECISION.

5. THE TDB NOTED THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN AND APPROVED ITS FORWARDING TO THE APPROPRIATE REVIEW MACHINERY IN HEADQUARTERS. THE GROUP D, AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED, DID NOT PLACE THE SAME STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE QUESTION OF DISCUSSION OF EAST/WEST TRADE ISSUES IN THE UNCTAD IN THEIR FINAL STATEMENT AS THEY HAD IN THE WORKING PARTY ITSELF. (SEE REFTEL B).
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6. AT THE REQUEST OF THE GROUP OF 77, THE MEETING OF THE

COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR
MAY 29 - JUNE 9 WAS POSTPONED UNTIL NOVEMBER 13 - 24. THE
G-77 BASED THEIR REQUEST ON THE FACT THAT THE MTN NEGOTI-
ATIONS WERE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THAT TIME AND THE
WORKING PROGRAM OF UNCTAD IN THE AREA OF MANUFACTURES WOULD
HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED
IN THE MTN. SEVERAL OTHER CHANGES IN THE CALENDAR OF
MEETINGS WERE APPROVED, A LIST OF WHICH IS BEING HAND
CARRIED BY MS. BRUCE, IO/IEP, TO THE DEPARTMENT. VANDEN
HEUVEL

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